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## TAX PROBLEM UP TO BUSINESS MEN

Chamber Will Call State Convention to Find Solution.

## PRESENT SYSTEM DECLARED ROTTEN

Member of Recent Grand Jury Investigating Tax Matter Says Man of Average Intelligence Can't Understand It—Edmund Struwick Elected New Director.

Called together at the Jefferson Hotel last night for the purpose of grappling with some of the most insistent problems that confront the city, the directors of the Chamber of Commerce with one accord singled out the question of taxation as the one problem which stands in most urgent need of solution.

There was no division of opinion. Many of the directors called attention to the recent grilling at the hands of the special grand jury investigating tax returns. One and all pronounced the system of taxation now in force in Virginia superbly bad—so bad that it constitutes a menace to business and contains a serious threat to commerce.

The board of directors voted unanimously to call together in Richmond some time this spring or in the early summer, a State convention of delegates from every business organization in the Commonwealth for the purpose of drafting a tax reform measure that will conform to the business demands of the State. The bill thus drafted will be submitted to the next General Assembly for adoption.

**Begin Work at Once.**  
The directors agreed that if anything was to be accomplished, the agitation for tax reform must begin at once. A resolution was accordingly adopted placing the matter with the legislative committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and instructing it to prepare a tentative outline of tax reform to be presented to the proposed convention of business men. The committee was instructed to prepare working plans for such a convention, as well as to report on the best time for holding it.

Thomas B. McAdams, cashier of the Merchants' National Bank, stated that the recent tax investigation conducted by the Auditor of Public Accounts and the newspapers has withdrawn more than \$2,000,000 from Richmond, and that much of it has left the city never to return. If the agitation had been prolonged and pursued to the strict letter of the law, he thought, it would have resulted in forcing a number of banks out of business.

Such a state of affairs, he said, is intolerable and hangs as a constant threat over the banking business of the State. The situation, he said, can be remedied only by placing a nominal tax on bank deposits. He suggested the abolition of all local taxes on deposits, making them a matter only to the State tax. This he said would put an end to concealment and subterfuge and cure the condition of unrest which threatens the business of the State.

**Mortgage Tax Reform.**  
President O. H. Funsten of the Real Estate Exchange, joined the hammer brigade with an arraignment of the mortgage tax. It was a species of double taxation, he said, which has been abandoned by Massachusetts, New York and every other progressive State, and is today militating in Richmond against the home building industry and outside capital seeking local investment. He asked for the abolition of the present rate of 1 1/2% annually and its replacement by a tax of 1/2% of 1 per cent to be paid on the most of the life of the mortgage—at the time of lifting.

"The present system of taxation is as rotten as it can be," is the way Fritz Sutterling put it. He was a member of the recent tax investigating grand jury, and spoke from the heart. As the tax laws stand now, he said, a person with any average intelligence cannot understand them. Some of the grand jury, he said, began by examining its own membership first, and found that three of the jurors were themselves guilty of evading taxation. They made the proper correction.

**To Proceed Slowly.**  
It was agreed by the directors that a complete cure for the State's tax ills will require several years. Some of the changes that are desired will require amendments to the present Constitution. An effort will be made through the proposed business convention to formulate one or two of the most important reforms and to have them enacted into law at the next General Assembly.

While the directors would not commit themselves last night on the nature of their initial demands, they indicated that they will ask first for the abolition of the mortgage tax, on the plan outlined by Mr. Funsten, and for the removal of the local tax on bank deposits. Details were entrusted to the legislative committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

**Mayor Tariff Commission.**  
President Chamberman presented a resolution adopted by the recently organized Chambers of Commerce of the United States, calling upon Congress to create a permanent tariff commission to gather the facts and to make the tariff for the purpose of supplying accurate information on the perennial problem to the lawmakers. The resolution was unanimously adopted. Congratulations were extended also to the United college and to the physicians and surgeons.

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# The Times-Dispatch

WHOLE NUMBER, 19,266. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1913.

## MEASURE PASSED OVER TAFT'S VETO

Overwhelming Majority in Senate for Immigration Bill.

## LITERACY TEST FOR FOREIGNERS

Lodge and Dillingham Lead in Fight to Override President, and Support of His Position Is Voiced Only by Few Senators—Prospects in House.

Washington, February 18.—The Burnett-Dillingham immigration bill, vetoed by President Taft because it imposed a literacy test upon immigrants, was passed over the President's veto in the Senate to-day by a vote of 72 to 18. The overwhelming majority given at the end of a short debate, in which President Taft's attitude was vigorously attacked, has strengthened the probability that the bill will be passed over the veto in the House when it is called up to-morrow.

Support of the President's position was voiced by only a few Senators during the debate. Senators Lodge and Dillingham, leading the fight to override the President, declared the measure contained no more important provisions for the exclusion of criminal, diseased and insane aliens than that great harm would result to the United States if it did not become law.

Senators voting to pass the bill over the veto were: Ashurst, Bacon, Bankhead, Borah, Bourne, Bradley, Brady, Brandegee, Brewster, Bryan, Burnham, Burton, Chamberlain, Clark, Cullum, Cummins, Dillingham, Dixon, Fall, Fletcher, Foster, Gallinger, Gannett, Gardner, Gore, Jackson, Johnson, Maine, Johnston, Alabama, Jones, Keating, Kenyon, Kern, La Follette, Lea, Lippitt, Lodge, McLean, Martin, Myers, Nelson, Newlands, Overman, Owen, Page, Penrose, Percy, Perkins, Pittman, Poindexter, Pomerene, Richardson, Root, Sheppard, Simmons, Smith, Arizona, Smith, Georgia, Smith, South Carolina, Smoot, Sutherland, Swanson, Thomas, Thornton, Tillman, Townsend, Webb, Wetmore, Williams and Works.

Senators voting to sustain the veto: Capper, Clarke, Arkansas, Curtis, DuPont, Gronna, Gunderheim, McCumber, Martine, O'Gorman, Oliver, Paynter, Shively, Smith, Maryland, Smith, Michigan; Stephenson, Stone and Warren.

**Alone Among Nations.**  
"I fail to understand why it is that the United States alone among nations is not thought to have the right that all nations have to say who shall come within its borders," said Senator Lodge. "It is the only country in the world where it is argued that people born in other countries, who never have seen the United States, are entitled to certain rights therein."

"It is for the citizens of the United States to say who shall come into their country. That is a primary right. Still less do I understand this extreme opposition to requiring that a man shall be able to read before he enters the United States. We don't allow a man to become a part of our body politic unless he can read and write his name."

"We don't hesitate to apply a literacy test to our own people. Why is it we should hesitate to apply it to a foreigner?"

"The opposition to this test is at bottom the same opposition that is made to every effort to improve our immigration laws or to restrict in any degree the number of immigrants. It comes from the steamship companies. For twenty-five years we have met that opposition at every turn. It is here to-day."

**Afraid of Ignorance.**  
"My reason for supporting the bill," said Senator Williams, "is that I am afraid of ignorance. I am afraid of the man who strikes out blindly to overcome the wrongs he thinks exist."

Senator Stone made the first speech against the measure. He declared the bill proposed to establish a radical and unwelcome change in the immigration policy of the United States.

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## CUSTIS LEE DIES AT AGE OF EIGHTY

He Was Eldest Son of Great Confederate Chieftain.

## INTERMENT WILL BE AT LEXINGTON

After Distinguished Career in Confederate Army, at Close of War He Became Professor in V. M. I., and Later Was President of Washington and Lee University.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Ravensworth, Va., February 18.—General George Washington Custis Lee, eldest son of General Robert E. Lee, formerly an aide-de-camp on the staff of Jefferson Davis and president emeritus of Washington and Lee University, died here at 10:30 o'clock this morning. He was eighty years old.

With General Lee at the time of his death was Mrs. W. H. F. Lee, Miss Mary Custis Lee and Colonel Robert E. Lee. Since he left Washington and Lee University, in 1897, he had resided continuously at Ravensworth.

On December 15, 1911, General Lee had the misfortune to fall and break his hip. For a time he progressed well, and there was every indication that he would ultimately recover, but because of his advanced age the fall caused him much discomfort later on, resulting in his death early to-day. Yesterday marked the end of the fourteenth month he had been in bed.

The funeral services will take place from Washington and Lee University, the exact hour not having at this time been decided upon. The body, accompanied by Robert E. Lee, the only surviving brother; Mrs. Robert E. Lee, Mrs. W. H. F. Lee and two nephews, Dr. C. Bolling Lee and Robert E. Lee, Jr., will be taken from Ravensworth on Thursday morning for interment at Lexington. All details of the funeral exercises have been left in the hands of the university authorities.

**Sketch of His Life.**  
George Washington Custis Lee, LL. D., formerly major-general Confederate States army, and president of the Washington and Lee University, was born at Fortress Monroe, Va., on September 16, 1832, while his father, Captain Robert Edward Lee, was on engineering duty there. His mother, Mary Custis Lee, was the daughter of George Washington Parke Custis, the adopted son of Washington, and the owner of Arlington.

The highest praise that can be given the mother of Custis Lee is to say that she was every way fitted to share the fortune, brighten the life and rear the children of Robert Edward Lee. Of the latter, we feel it needless to speak at all.

The Lees can trace their family back to a long line of distinguished ancestors, one genealogist tracing them back to Robert the Bruce, of Scotland; but the earliest ancestor in America was Richard Lee, of Essex, Eng., who came to Virginia in 1634, and a great-grandson, Charles Lee, a member of the King's council, and, according to tradition, offered to proclaim Charles II. king nearly twenty years before he was restored. One of the Virginia members of the family in Virginia was General Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot, Dr. Arthur, William, Richard and Lewis, all of the earlier era; Sidney Smith and "Buck" Smith, the latter a member of the legislature, and with the advantages of a good education, it is not surprising that Custis Lee became distinguished as scholar and soldier.

**Enters West Point.**  
Custis Lee attended the classical school at Clarendon, Fairfax County, of which the Rev. George A. Smith was principal, and then entered the school of Benjamin Halliwell, in Alexandria, which his father before him had attended. Just then, President Taylor appointed him to a cadetship at West Point, and he entered the academy in June, 1850, graduating with the highest honors of his class in June, 1854.

July 1, 1854, he was appointed brevet lieutenant, and the corps of engineers, United States Army, March 2, 1855, second lieutenant, and, October 20, 1859, first lieutenant of the same corps. While in the engineer corps, he served in Georgia, Florida and California, and in the engineer department at Washington, winning high reputation as an engineer on harbor defenses and river improvements. For nearly two years before the breaking out of the war he was in the army, his duties in the department at Washington allowed him to make his home at Arlington, and in the absence of his father, who was on duty in West Virginia, he acted as his father's representative in the department. The estate which his grandfather, Custis Lee, had left to him. He gave evidence of self-sacrifice by quietly having a deed to the estate made to his father and mother, and one of the many beautiful and affectionate letters which his father wrote him was one of grateful appreciation of his act, but firmly declining to receive the proffered gift.

Custis Lee naturally loved the old flag, and his associations with the army were strong; but the grandson of "Light-Horse Harry" and son of Robert Edward Lee could not hesitate in such a crisis. Accordingly, May 2, 1861, he resigned from the United States army, and tendered his services to his native Virginia. On May 10, he was appointed major of engineers in the provisional army of Virginia; on July 1, he was made captain of engineers; on August 31, 1861, he was appointed colonel and aide-de-camp to President Davis. In this position he rendered most valuable service, being the confidential messenger between the President and General R. E. Lee and performing many delicate and important duties. General and put in command of local defense troops around Richmond. October 20, 1861, he was promoted major-general and commanded troops defending Richmond, north of Chaffin's Bluff.

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# The Times-Dispatch

WHOLE NUMBER, 19,266. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1913.

## Provisional President of Mexico



GENERAL VICTORIANO HUERTA.

## SETTLE QUESTION BY ARBITRATION

Agreement Ends Danger of Firemen's Strike on Eastern Railroads.

## LOOK TO HUERTA FOR PROTECTION

Matter of Amelioration of Conditions Will Be Taken Up With New President.

## DECEASED WILL BE BINDING

Managers Finally Decide to Submit to Terms of Erdman Act.

New York, February 18.—There will be no firemen's strike on the Eastern railroads. The railroads yielded to-day and agreed to arbitrate under the Erdman act the controversy with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

The firemen had stood, to a man, for this method of arbitration ever since the deadlock began; the railroads had stood firm for arbitration before a commission of six or seven men.

Three men, acting under the law, will decide the firemen's claims. Their decision will be binding. The decision of the roads was announced this morning in an official statement issued by Elisha Lee as chairman of the conference committee of managers.

"The managers feel," says the statement, "that the public will not tolerate a strike."

Mr. Lee's communication was addressed to Judge Martin A. Knapp, of the United States Commerce Court, and G. W. Hanger, acting United States commissioner of labor, who have been acting as mediators in the dispute. It is as follows:

**Text of the Notice.**  
"At the urgent request of you as representatives of the government, and under the strongest protest we are able to voice, the managers' committee agrees to arbitrate the firemen's contentions under the Erdman act, and as the managers also desire to give notice at this time that they shall earnestly request that the hearings in this arbitration be open to the public."

"As the managers have stood out to the limit against arbitration under the Erdman act, and as the government or the public is responsible for whatever the consequences may be, the managers reiterate their principal objections to the Erdman act. These were pointed out by the board of arbitration in the engineers' case."

"The responsibility which ultimately will rest upon a third member of an Erdman arbitration board was too great to impose upon any one man. The operation of the act is to settle disputes rather than to adjudicate a controversy."

"The arbitrators are three in number. Each side is represented by one arbitrator. It rests therefore upon the two arbitrators to bring the other two as nearly as possible to a compromise, and if he cannot do so he must decide between them. This is accomplished by splitting differences, and the case may be adjusted without adequate investigation of the facts involved, and the award may not rest upon a basis of equity."

"But the most fundamental defect of the Erdman act is that the interests of the public are not guarded by it. The managers feel that the public will not tolerate a strike, and their three-fold responsibility to the public, their men and their shareholders, they only agreed to arbitrate under the Erdman act when it seemed the only way to avert the calamity of a strike. The firemen's brotherhood has no responsibility except to its members."

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# The Times-Dispatch

WHOLE NUMBER, 19,266. RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1913.

## Provisional President of Mexico

## MADERO IS FORCED OUT OF PRESIDENCY; HUERTA IN CHARGE

Deposed Chief Executive of Mexico Is Arrested at National Palace by General Blanquet, While Commander of Federal Troops Is Proclaimed Provisional President.

## ALL MEMBERS OF CABINET EXCEPT ONE, WHO ESCAPES, ALSO UNDER ARREST

Coup d'Etat at Palace Causes Sensation, and Exact Status of Affairs Could Not Be Ascertained for Several Hours—Direct Movement Is Result of Plot Fostered and Executed by General Blanquet—Prior to Agreement, Huerta's Attempt to Communicate With Diaz, Leader of Rebels, Precipitates One of Sharpest Engagements of the Day.

Mexico City, February 18.—Francisco I. Madero, arrested in the National Palace this afternoon by General Blanquet, one of his own commanders, was forced to sign his resignation from the presidency.

General Victoriano Huerta, commander of the Federal troops which have been fighting Diaz, has been proclaimed provisional President.

Gustavo Madero and all the Cabinet ministers, with the exception of Ernesto Madero, are under arrest. The Vice-President of the republic, Jose Pino Suarez, still is at liberty, but in hiding.

The American ambassador and the other foreign diplomats held a conference at the American embassy this evening to discuss re-establishment of order and further protection of foreign residents.

To-night, the Zocalo, the great plaza in front of the palace, was jammed with a delirious crowd, with banners inscribed "Peace" and "Liberty," shouting for Diaz, Huerta, Blanquet and Mondragon.

**Madero Forced Out of Office.**  
Mexico City, February 18.—Francisco I. Madero has been forced out of the presidency. He was arrested at the National Palace shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon by General Blanquet.

General Victoriano Huerta, commander of the Federal troops, was proclaimed provisional President.

About the time Madero was seized by Blanquet, his brother, Gustavo Madero, the former Minister of Finance, was arrested by General Huerta, who was dining with him in a public restaurant.

All members of the Cabinet were promptly placed under arrest with the exception of Ernesto Madero, the uncle of the President, who held the portfolio of finance. He was apprised of the intentions against the government and managed to make his escape.

Notwithstanding the fact that some definite action was effected to-day, the coup d'etat at the palace caused a sensation, and the exact status of affairs could not be ascertained for several hours. The direct movement against Madero was the result of a plot which had been brewing since yesterday, and which possibly existed with Blanquet for a much greater length of time.

**Blanquet Unwilling to Fight.**  
From the first it had been known that General Blanquet was unwilling to fight. His men were of the same mind. He held complete command over them, and it was not doubted that they would follow him in any adventure, as they did at the National Palace this afternoon.

The forces, numbering 1,000 men, which arrived last night, were sent immediately to the palace, ostensibly to relieve the reserves there. The reserves were sent into the field.

An agreement between Generals Blanquet and Huerta was reached last night, but the first intimation that Blanquet's men had of the new role they were to play was shortly before the successful stroke was made. Blanquet drew his men up in order and delivered a stirring speech.

"This inhuman battle must end," he said. "The time has come when some drastic means must be taken to stop a conflict in which father is killing son, and brother is fighting against brother; when noncombatants are sharing the fate of war—and all this because of the caprice of one man."

Blanquet then issued orders for the arrest of the President and assigned a detachment to that duty. Madero was soon a prisoner in his own rooms.

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